

Mutual Broadcasting System

(EXCERPT)

Fulton Lewis, Jr., at 7:00 P.M.

"The Senate Rules Committee today approved a resolution which bodes trouble for one controversial agency of the Federal government, a resolution to set up a joing watch-dog committee to investigate and keep an eye on the operations and expenditures of the CIO (sic) -- C. I. A., the CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, which is now headed by Secretary of State Dulles's brother, Allen. That one has been in the wind for a long time and probably should have been undertaken way back because there is no agency of the federal government out of which so much suspicious smoke has been curling for years as this one.

"The truth is, the basic set-up of C.I.A. is not a healthy one for any government such as this one of ours and the very nature of it invites the sort of trouble and irregulativity that every dictate of good government should avoid. This, of course, is our foreign intelligence operation, corresponding abroad to the Federal Bureau of Investigation here at home. Just why it's necessary to have it in a separate agency, however, has always been a mystery.

"From the time it was first set up, the end of the World War II, there have been constant clues of a very unhappy nature about it, and constant charges that this is not going as it should. All suggestions for an investigation of the set-up, however, are met always with the argument that in the very nature of things, the affairs of the Central Intelligence Agency cannot be aired in public because that would expose its operations, its agents, its informers and its expenditures.

"That's all very well, but it is not a good business to have a public agency on which there's no check at all, not even a financial audit, no check of the projects on which it spends its money, and Senator Jenner of Indiana, who was among those who voted for the resolution today, said Congress doesn't even know how much money it gives the C.I.A.

"I know that I found out in the Far East that C.I.A. was financing all sorts of odd and peculiar projects there as covers for purported intelligence activities and many of those activities did not have a savory reputation. It is reportedly supporting, financially, the so-called Radio Free Europe which I have found consistently on my trips across the Atlantic to be under considerable shadow.

"I was informed as late as Sunday night by one of Europe's best informed political experts, who has just arrived in this country for his own intelligence purposes, that the Radio Free Europe broadcasts to Czechoslovakia are so much the opposite of what they should be that Radio Prague, the Communist radio in the Czech capital, has been recording these broadcasts from the air and playing them back as their own communist propaganda. And the source of that information I consider to be unimpeachably reliable. Furthermore, the general tenor of it is borne out by virtually every informed individual who returns from that area of the world.

"These are only surface scratches compared with the overall total of reports that are current about the C.I.A. and its performances, and apparently the White House has reason to be disturbed about the reports, too, because the President has just set up a special lay committee to make a study of the organization, after several preliminary studies by individuals at the recommendation of the Hoover Commission.

"In any event, the smoke is sufficient to have decided the Senate Rules Committee, with only two dissenting votes, to set up this special watch-dog committee to see what has been going on and to watch what goes on in the future. The White House appointed committee doesn't appear likely to amount to much, frankly -- they seldom do -- and this one is under the chairmanship of the President of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, James R. Killian, who himself has a record of statements that are very soft and very tolerant toward Communism and subversion.

"By long observation one gets to know instinctively how these lay commissions work; they come to Washington every six months -- once every six months -- sit down, listen to a boiler-plate report by Allen Dulles, which is all sweetness and light, and then go back home to forget it for another six months. I wouldn't be surprised to see this one get a juicy grant, and perhaps some staffing, from the Fund for the Republic.

"By way of backing up the general picture I've painted for you here, the Hoover Commission set up a task force headed by General Mark Clark to do a study of the C.I.A., and the report and findings were extremely critical and derogatory."